

Remarks

Claims 1-23 were pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 18-23 were rejected. Claims 7, 16 and 17 were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 13 and 15 are canceled, claims 1, 5, 11, 14, and 16 are amended, and claims 24-28 are added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 16, and 17 (only objected to) and 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 20, and 22 (also subject to provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections).

By the foregoing amendment, claim 3 has been re-presented in independent form as new claim 27 but without the specific numerical parameter of intervening claim 2.

A portion of claim 5 (tangential direction) has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 14 has similarly been amended to reference tangential direction and incorporate the 112(6) language of claim 15. Claim 16 has merely been amended for proper antecedent.

Another portion of claims 5 and 8 (free spool) has been added to the text of as-filed claim 1 as new claim 24.

Claim 10 has been re-presented in independent form as new claim 25.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate all elements of claim 13.

Claim 20 has been re-presented in independent form as new claim 26.

Claim 22 has been re-presented in independent form as new claim 28.

Double Patenting Rejections

Various claims were subject to provisional obviousness-type

double patenting rejections. If these rejections become nonprovisional, they will be appropriately overcome.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Call (US3417564). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendment, the rejection is believed moot.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious and unpatentable over Johnson et al. (US6442930) in view of Call. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Johnson et al. substantially post-dates Call. The examiner has failed to cite any further reference for making the proposed combination. The examiner's motivation comes solely from Call. However, if true, this motivation would have been available to Johnson et al. and, therefore, Johnson et al. would have been expected to have made the combination themselves. Accordingly, in the absence of a further reference suggesting the combination, Johnson et al. must be regarded as teaching away from the combination.

Nevertheless, in view of the foregoing amendment, the rejection is believed moot.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-12, 14, and 16-28 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

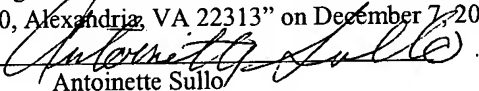
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Date: December 7, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 7, 2004


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